

AGE OF APOCALYPSE

SECRET
WAR

MARVEL

005

NICIEZA
COELLO
CURIEL

2015
I DID IT--

AGE OF APOCALYPSE

THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED...
NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS...IS BATTLEWORLD!

A MASSIVE, PATCHWORK PLANET COMPOSED OF FRAGMENTS FROM WORLDS THAT NO LONGER EXIST, MAINTAINED BY THE IRON WILL OF ITS GOD AND MASTER, VICTOR VON DOOM. EACH REGION IS A DOMAIN UNTO ITSELF, BUT NONE IS RULED MORE RUTHLESSLY THAN THE REALM OF EN SABAH NUR, APOCALYPSE.



APOCALYPSE EN SABAH NUR

CAPACITIES: It doesn't matter, he's dead now.

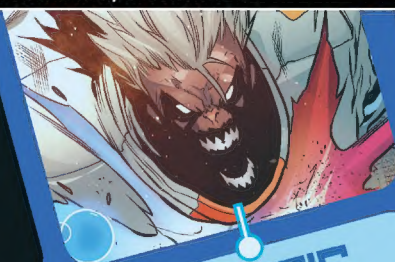
PROFILE: In order to see who would live and who would die, the mad Baron released a virus that was specifically designed to prove deadly to mutants. He did not prove fit to survive.

(FILE NOT FOUND)

JEAN GREY

CAPACITIES: Former Omega-Level telepath and telekinetic.

PROFILE: Years ago, Lord Essex ordered this girl lobotomized. He so feared her mutant potential that he was willing to incur the wrath of Apocalypse. I assisted McCoy in the operation, but ensured that someday Jean Grey's potential could rise from the ashes...



NEMESIS DR. JAMES BRADLEY

CAPACITIES: Former super-scientist, now all-powerful Überman with the ability to finally write this in first person.

PROFILE: Fittingly, I am the last entry in this mutant data-log, for I am now the ultimate expression of evolution. I am not God yet, but soon, God is Doomed. I just have to finish up here first...

THE CURE

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NEW CAIRO.

CAPITAL CITY OF THE DOMAIN OF APOCALYPSE.

I'M MILES AWAY FROM DARK BEAST'S BIOLABS, BUT I CAN HEAR THE THOUGHTS OF EVERYONE FIGHTING THERE.

DOCTOR BRADLEY CALLS HIMSELF NEMESIS. HE'S GENETICALLY ABSORBED THE POWERS OF OVER THREE HUNDRED MUTANTS--

--INCLUDING TELEPATHY--BUT HE CAN'T CONTROL THEM YET. HE'S BROADCASTING WILDLY AND CHAOTICALLY.

I HEAR CYCLOPS:

HE'S USING MY OPTIC BLASTS? WHY DIDN'T THEY HURT BURNER? HOW CAN WE BEAT HIM?

HAVOK:

EVERYTHING IS FALLING APART/ WHAT DO I DO? FIGHT THIS GUY OR SIDE WITH HIM?

BURNER:

THEY DON'T KNOW/IF WE SURVIVE I HAVE TO TELL THEM/WHAT IF THEY REJECT ME?

WOLVERINE:

SON OF A %\$#@

HE HAS THE STRENGTH OF COLOSSUS AND NAMOR, SAURON'S WINGS...

HE'S BUGGIN' OUT, CYKE.

BURNER-- FOLLOW HIM!

BRADLEY WANTS TO FLEX HIS POWERS. HE WANTS EVERYONE TO SEE HIM-- TO FEAR AND WORSHIP HIM.

CAN ONE OMNIPOTENT MADMAN HAVE FALLEN JUST TO SEE A NEW ONE RISE IN HIS PLACE...?



BURN!

NEMESIS COMBINES THE HEALING POWERS OF SABRETOOTH, ICARUS, M, ELIXIR AND LIFE GUARD TO WARD OFF BURNER'S ATTACK.



DO YOU FIGHT THE RISING OF THE SUN, ADAM?

THE EBB AND FLOW OF THE DAY'S TIDES?

I AM INEVITABLE!



AS YOUR CHOICE SHOULD BE.

ALL OF YOU-- X-MEN, MEMBERS OF THE ELITE MUTANT FORCE, INFINITE GUARDS--

--JOIN ME NOW AND RULE BY MY SIDE!

TOGETHER, WE WILL OVERTHROW DOOM HIMSELF!





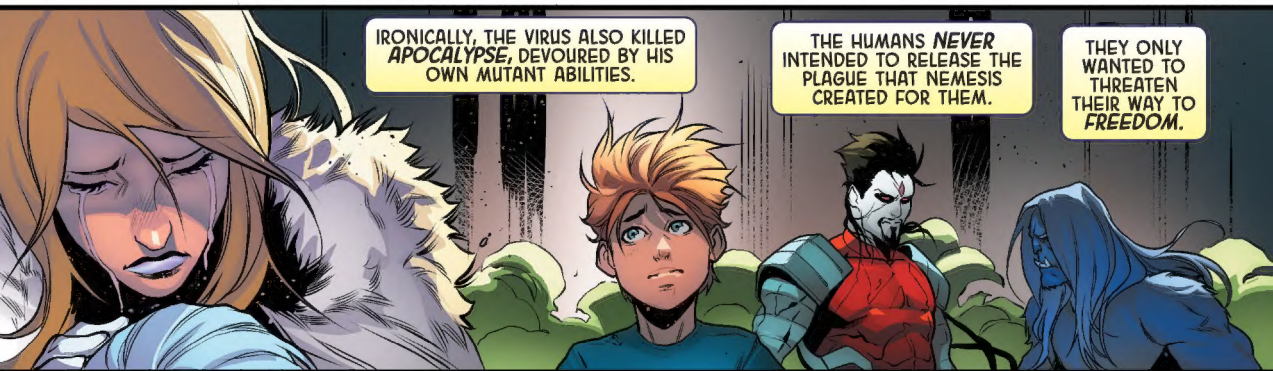


...NEMESIS
IS ON HIS WAY
HERE.

THE HUMAN COMMUNAL VILLAGE.

A.K.A. THE FLATSCAN
GHETTO.

MAGNETO IS DEAD
BECAUSE OF THE
LEGACY VIRUS THAT
APOCALYPSE
UNLEASHED.



IRONICALLY, THE VIRUS ALSO KILLED
APOCALYPSE, DEVoured BY HIS
OWN MUTANT ABILITIES.

THE HUMANS *NEVER*
INTENDED TO RELEASE THE
PLAGUE THAT NEMESIS
CREATED FOR THEM.

THEY ONLY
WANTED TO
THREATEN
THEIR WAY TO
FREEDOM.



MY NAME IS
DOUG RAMSEY.
I DECODE THE
MEANING AND
INTENT OF ALL
LANGUAGE.

THE X-MEN WANTED
ME TO PROVE THAT
APOCALYPSE WANTED
EVERYONE TO DIE.



BUT HIS *ACTIONS* SPOKE
LOUDER THAN HIS WORDS.

WE ARE ALL
INFECTED.

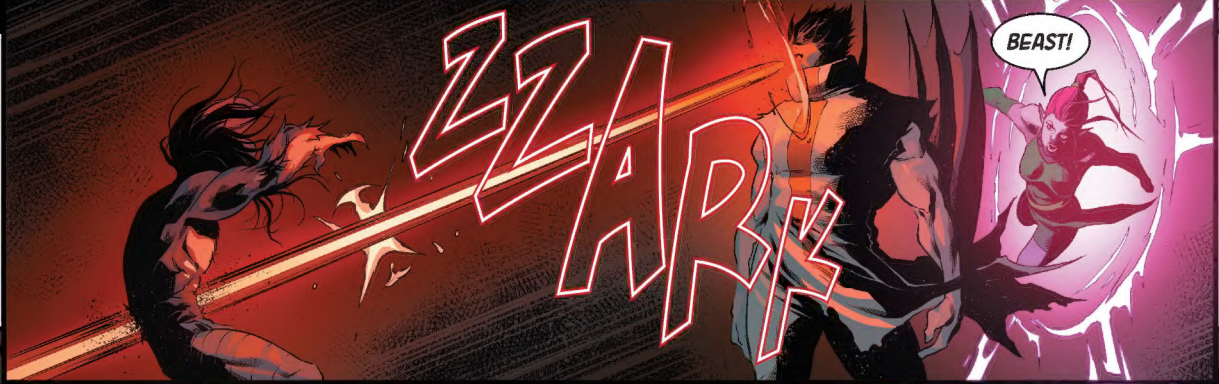
YES, LORD
ESSEX.

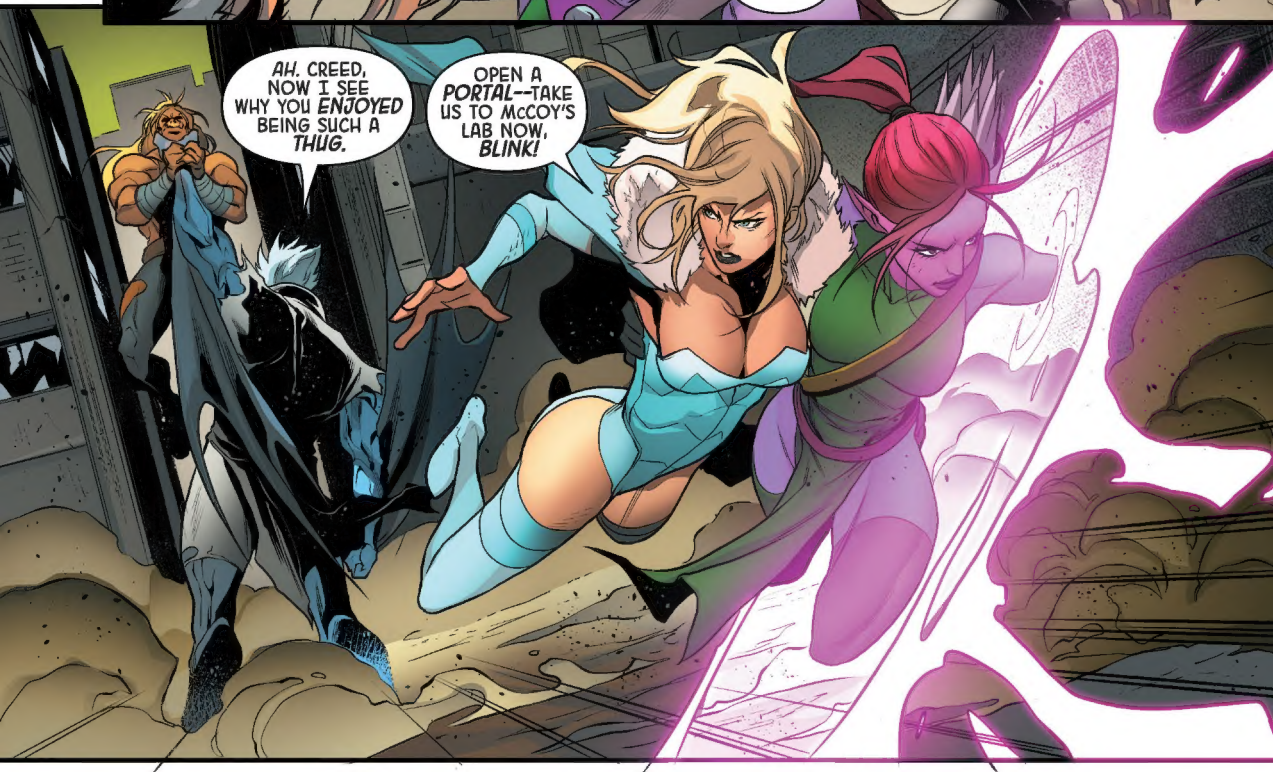
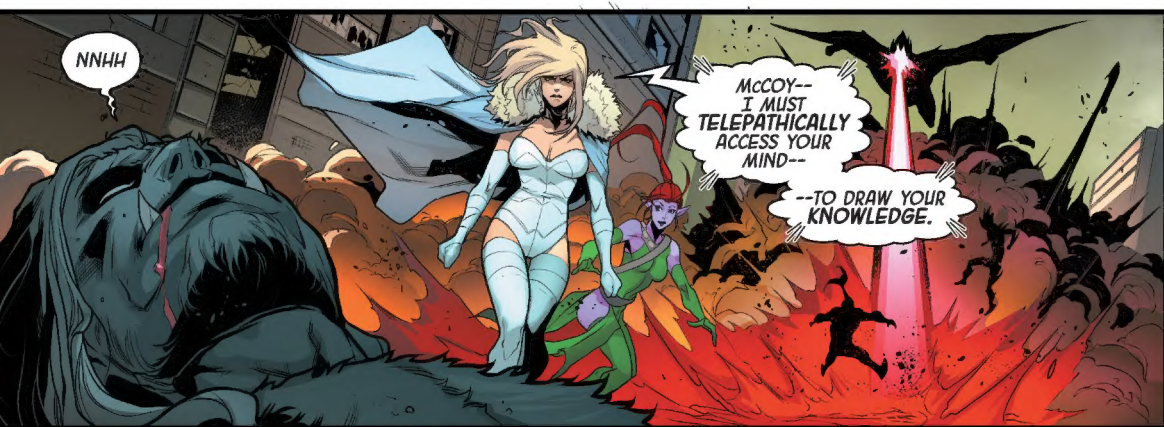


CAN YOU
FIND A CURE,
MCCOY?

I WOULD
HAVE TO RETURN
TO MY LAB.

DO IT.
BLINK CAN
TELEPORT
YOU THERE.







BARON APOCALYPSE PROVED UNFIT TO SURVIVE!

HE FAILED BY EVERY MEASURE THAT HE HIMSELF HAD ESTABLISHED!



I AM IMMUNE TO THE PLAGUE THAT WAITS TO EXPLODE WITHIN EVERY MUTANT HERE!

I CAN SAVE YOU FROM ITS RAVAGING EFFECTS.



I CAN EVOLVE YOU ALL!

AND TOGETHER, WE CAN DO WHAT APOCALYPSE WAS TOO WEAK TO ACCOMPLISH...



...PROVE WE ARE THE FITTEST SPECIES ON BATTLEWORLD--

--AND USURP THE FALSE GOD

DOOM!

HE USES DAZZLER'S LIGHT POWERS TO PUT ON A SHOW. IMPRESS US. INTIMIDATE US.



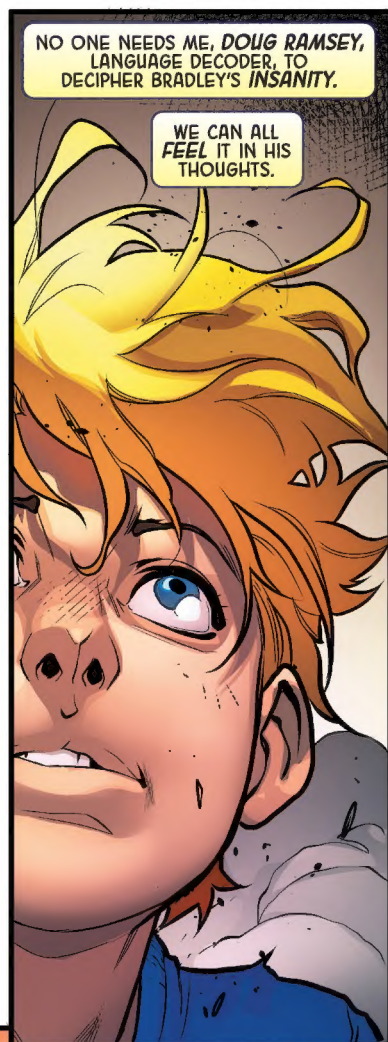
YEAH,
I KNOW,
ESSEX...

GOOD
A DAY TO DIE
AS ANY.



LONG LIVE
THE NEW KING,
HUH, ICEMAN?

BUT
HOPEFULLY NOT
TOO LONG,
ROGUE.



NO ONE NEEDS ME, *DOUG RAMSEY*,
LANGUAGE DECODER, TO
DECIPHER BRADLEY'S *INSANITY*.

WE CAN ALL
FEEL IT IN HIS
THOUGHTS.



ROGUE AND ICEMAN, THE HORSEMEN
OF APOCALYPSE AND THE ELITE MUTANT
FORCE ALL GIVE NEMESIS THEIR ANSWER...



...AS BLINK TAKES
EMMA FROST BACK
TO MCCOY'S LAB.

I CAN
REMEMBER EVERY
NAME, TEST AND
BODY PART MCCOY
EXPERIMENTED
ON.

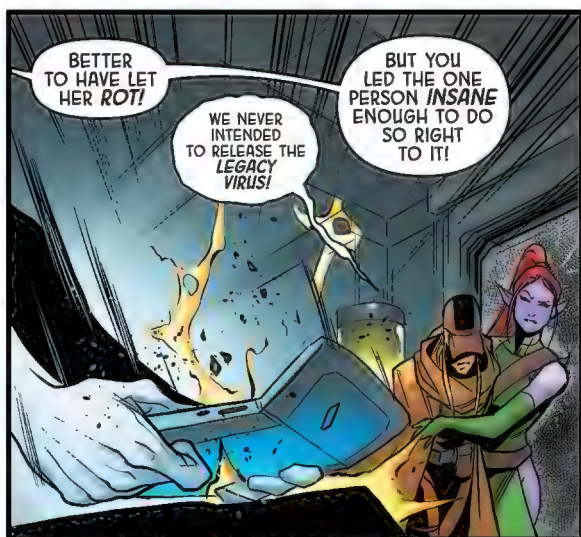
WITHIN ALL
THAT **DEPRAVITY**
WILL LIE THE ANSWERS
TO SAVING US
ALL.



WELL,
I FOUND A
VICTIM WHO'S
STILL IN ONE
PIECE.

SHERIFF
CAROL
DANVERS.

NNGH...



BETTER
TO HAVE LET
HER ROT!

WE NEVER
INTENDED
TO RELEASE THE
LEGACY
VIRUS!

BUT YOU
LED THE ONE
PERSON **INSANE**
ENOUGH TO DO
SO RIGHT
TO IT!



WATER
UNDER THE BRIDGE,
EMMA.

NOW'S
THE TIME TO FIX
THIS MESS.

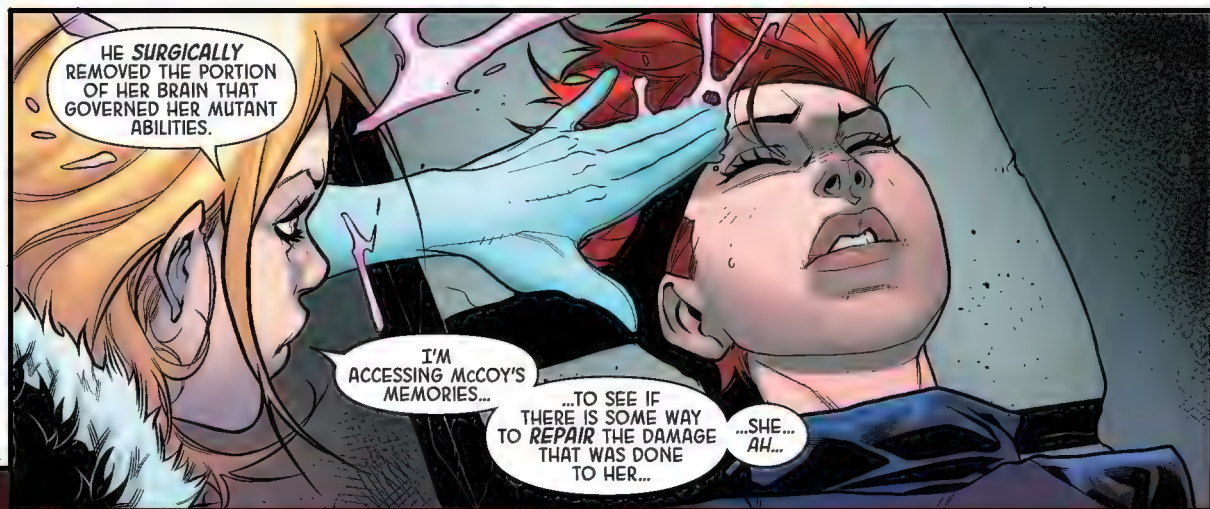
AND
THIS GIRL
COULD BE THE
KEY TO DOING
THAT...



...THIS IS JEAN GREY.

HER? ISN'T SHE JUST A WAITRESS FROM ANGEL'S PLACE?

WHO ONCE HAD **OMEGA-LEVEL** MUTANT POTENTIAL-- POWERFUL ENOUGH THAT ESSEX WAS **TERRIFIED** OF HER.



HE **SURGICALLY** REMOVED THE PORTION OF HER BRAIN THAT GOVERNED HER MUTANT ABILITIES.

I'M ACCESSING MCCOY'S MEMORIES...

...TO SEE IF THERE IS SOME WAY TO **REPAIR** THE DAMAGE THAT WAS DONE TO HER...

...SHE... AH...



...SHE IS **ANGRY**...SHE WANTS THEM ALL TO **PAY**.

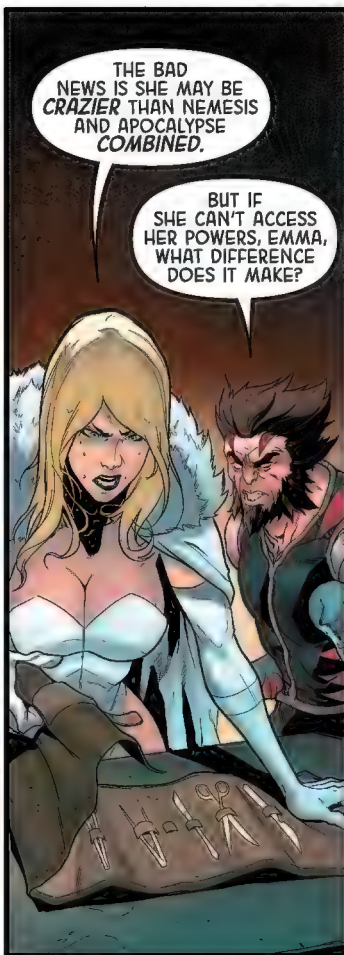
IF ONLY I HAD THE POWER, THEY WOULD ALL **BURN**.



AGH!
FRANKLY, THAT WAS
TERRIFYING.

GOOD NEWS
OR BAD NEWS?
HER **POWER** IS STILL
THERE--IN HER
VERY **CELLS**.

POWER ENOUGH
TO STOP NEMESIS
AND CURE US ALL
OF THE VIRUS!



THE BAD
NEWS IS SHE MAY BE
CRAZIER THAN NEMESIS
AND APOCALYPSE
COMBINED.

BUT IF
SHE CAN'T ACCESS
HER POWERS, EMMA,
WHAT DIFFERENCE
DOES IT MAKE?



I BELIEVE
THE PORTION OF MY
BRAIN THAT CONTROLS
MY TELEPATHY CAN BE
SURGICALLY IMPLANTED
INTO HER BRAIN!

JEAN SURVIVED
A LOBOTOMY. I
SHOULD BE ABLE
TO, ALSO.

EVEN IF IT
WORKS, HOW DO
WE KNOW SHE'LL
HELP US?



ZZARK

NO!



NO ONE
TOUCHES
HER!

I WON'T
LET JEAN BE
BUTTERED
AGAIN!



IT'S *YOUR* FAULT IT
HAPPENED THE FIRST TIME,
SUMMERS!

HEY--
HEY! WE DON'T
HAVE TIME FOR
THIS!



ADAM IS
RIGHT. AND SO
IS FROST.



OUR ONLY
HOPE OF STOPPING
NEMESIS AND CURING
THIS LEGACY VIRUS IS
TO LET THE *PHOENIX*
RISE FROM THE
DEAD!

AND THOUGH
I DO SO RESPECT
MISS FROST'S MANY
TALENTS...

...PERFORMING
BRAIN SURGERY
ON *HERSELF* DOES NOT
COUNT AMONG
THEM. SO...

...WHAT
SAY WE *DIG*
IN...?



NEMESIS HAS
OVERRUN THE
HUMAN GHETTO.

ICEMAN EVAPORATED
(AGAIN). ABYSS IS DEAD AND
CREED IS BARELY BREATHING.

WE CAN'T
HOLD OUT MUCH
LONGER.



AND JUST AS WE'RE
DOWN TO ONLY ROGUE
AND A FEW OF THE
IMBECILE E.M.F. LEFT
STANDING...

ZZARK



...THE CAVALRY
ARRIVES!

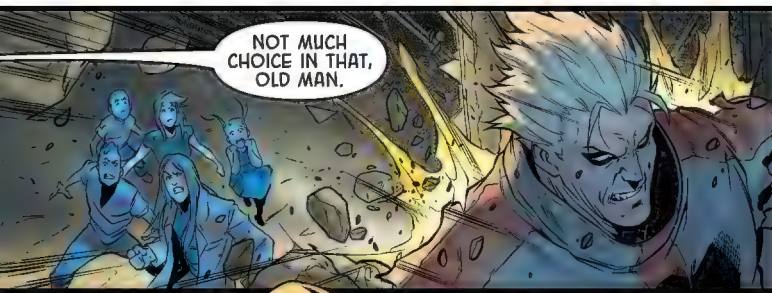
CAROL, GET
THE HUMANS OUT
OF HERE! LOGAN,
GET CREED BACK INTO
THIS FIGHT! WE'LL
NEED HIM.

ALEX
AND BURNER,
YOU'RE WITH
ME.

KID THINKS
HE'S A BORN
LEADER.

FOSSILS LIKE
US SHOULD BE
BURIED, RIGHT,
CREED?

I'M FINE
SITTIN' THIS ONE
OUT, LOGAN...



NOT MUCH
CHOICE IN THAT,
OLD MAN.



CAN'T BELIEVE I'M
GONNA DIE SAVIN' A BUNCH
FLATSCAN PUPS...

WE'LL
PROB'LY DIE
BEFORE THAT, SO
LOOK ON THE
BRIGHT SIDE--

--WE'RE
JUST GONNA DIE
FIGHTIN'!



BUT NEMESIS
DOESN'T EVEN
RISK A FIGHT.



HE TELEKINETICALLY
SENDS THEM BOTH
INTO ORBIT.



NO ONE EVEN HAS
TIME TO THINK OF THE
ENORMITY OF LOGAN
AND CREED DYING.

ALEX!
SCOTT!
NO!

OR THEY'RE TOO BUSY TRYING TO KEEP THEMSELVES ALIVE...

WATCH OUT--

NYEEARRGH!

NO!



BURNER... ADAM... WHY DID YOU DO THAT--?

BECAUSE... THAT'S WHAT BROTHERS DO...

HIS LAST WORDS AREN'T LACED WITH BITTERNESS OR REGRET LIKE THEY COULD HAVE BEEN...



...BUT WITH LOVE... AND HOPE.

BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT THE X-MEN ARE ABOUT.



AND HOPE IS MORE CONTAGIOUS THAN ANY VIRUS...

HMM. MISS GREY...



...I SEEM TO BE MELTING, SO NOW MIGHT BE A VERY GOOD TIME TO WAKE UP.

AH--

A large comic book panel showing Jean Grey in a green and yellow suit fighting a large, muscular man in a white shirt and blue pants. Jean Grey is in a dynamic pose, punching the man. In the background, two other characters are visible on a rooftop. The scene is set in a city with buildings and debris.

WE ALL *FEEL*
IT FROM *MILES*
AWAY.

JEAN GREY
WAKES UP IN A
BURST OF FIRE
AND PASSION.

WE FEEL *NEMESIS*
PANIC. HE LASHES OUT,
NOW DESPERATE.

A large comic book panel showing a massive, intense fire or explosion. The fire is bright orange and yellow, with thick black smoke rising from it. In the background, a city skyline is visible, with several tall buildings. The overall atmosphere is one of destruction and rebirth.

AND THEN WE ARE
DELUGED IN A TIDAL WAVE
OF POWER AS OLD AS
LIFE AND DEATH ITSELF.

THE *PHOENIX*
RISES FROM THE
ASHES...

A close-up comic book panel of Nemesis's face. He has a determined, almost crazed expression, with his teeth bared. He is wearing a red and black costume. The background is a fiery orange and yellow, suggesting the aftermath of the explosion.

...AND IN THE
FACE OF THAT
POWER...

AH--
NO...

A full-page comic book illustration of Jean Grey. She is depicted in a dynamic, powerful pose, surrounded by intense orange and yellow flames and swirling grey smoke. She has long, flowing red hair and is wearing a green, form-fitting bodysuit with a red sash. Her eyes are glowing white, and her mouth is open in a shout. She is holding a small, glowing red and yellow object in her right hand. The background is a chaotic scene of destruction with debris and smoke.

...NEMESIS
LEARNS HE IS
NOT FIT TO
SURVIVE!

WE CAN ALL
FEEL THE **ANGER**
OF THE **PHOENIX**,
BUT MORE...

...WE CAN FEEL
THE **LOVE** INSIDE
OF JEAN GREY.

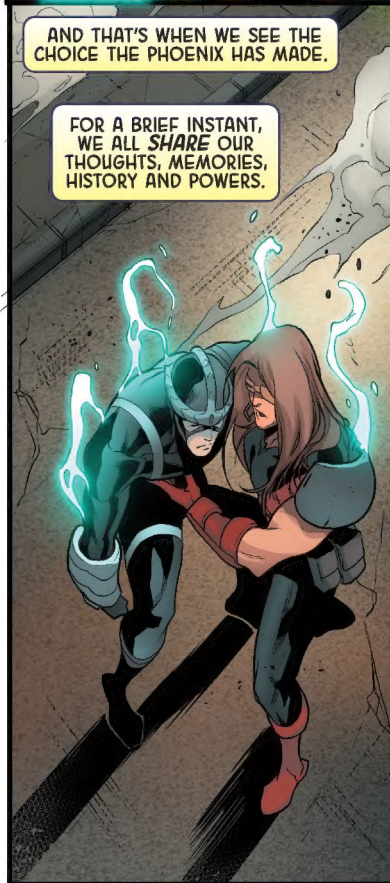
THE DICHOTOMY
BOTH **SINGS** AND
SCREAMS WITHIN
HER, BALANCED TO
TIP ONE WAY OR
THE OTHER.



BUT WHICH
WAY WILL SHE
LEAN?

CARRIED BY *TELEKINETIC
WINDS*, BRADLEY'S
LIQUIFIED MATTER
BLANKETS THE AREA.

THE *CURE* WAS
CONTAINED IN
EVERY CELL OF
HIS BODY.

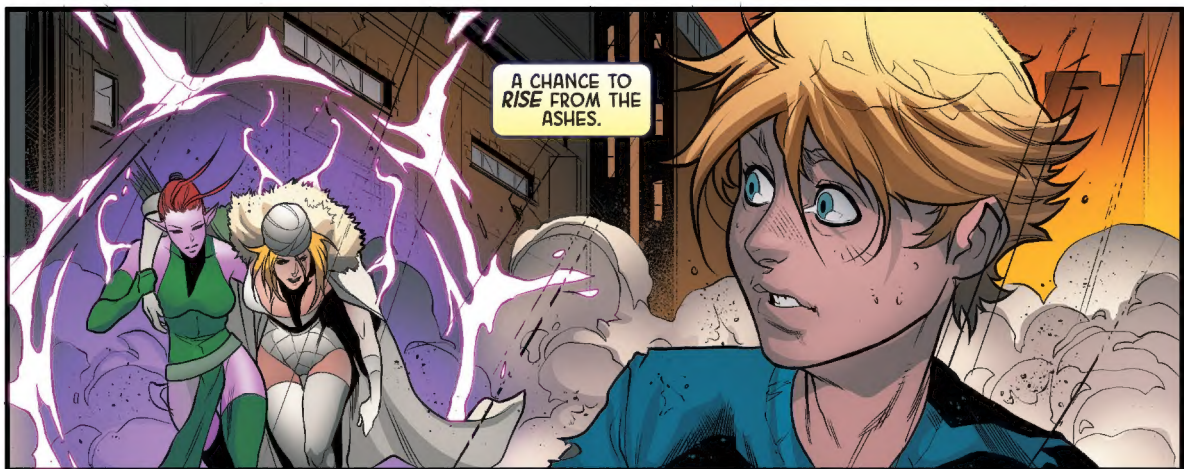


AND THAT'S WHEN WE SEE THE
CHOICE THE PHOENIX HAS MADE.

FOR A BRIEF INSTANT,
WE ALL *SHARE* OUR
THOUGHTS, MEMORIES,
HISTORY AND POWERS.



SHE IS GIVING US A
SECOND CHANCE,
JUST LIKE SHE GOT.



A CHANCE TO
*RISE FROM THE
ASHES*.



I FEEL FUNNY. WHAT THE HELL IS GOIN' ON?

A CURE.

FOR THE LEGACY VIRUS?

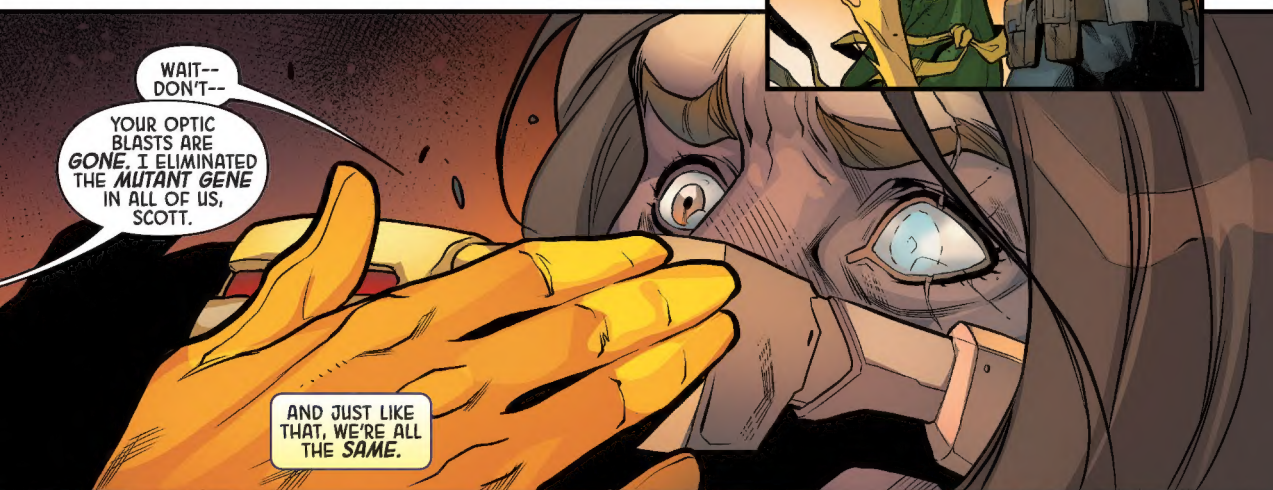
FOR... EVERYTHING.



JEAN...IS IT YOU...?

TO DO WHAT?

IT IS NOW, SCOTT. I USED EVERY LAST TRACE OF THE PHOENIX FORCE.



WAIT-- DON'T--

YOUR OPTIC BLASTS ARE GONE. I ELIMINATED THE MUTANT GENE IN ALL OF US, SCOTT.

AND JUST LIKE THAT, WE'RE ALL THE SAME.



AND DESPITE ALL WE'VE LOST, WE'VE GAINED SOMETHING GREATER: THE CHANCE TO CHOOSE OUR OWN DESTINY.

WILL WE CHOOSE THE NIGHTMARE AND CONTINUE TO LIVE WITH HATE...

...OR WILL WE LIVE THE DREAM AND CHOOSE LOVE...?

MARVEL